

We claim:

1. A nonwoven laminate comprising:

a first layer having a first side and a second side, said first layer comprising a nonwoven web of multicomponent fibers having a first polymeric component and a second polymeric component in distinct zones across the cross-section of the fibers which extend substantially continuously along the length of the fibers, said multicomponent fibers having an average fiber diameter less than about 7 micrometers;

a second layer proximate the first side of said first layer, said second layer comprising a nonwoven web of continuous fibers having an average fiber diameter greater than about 10 micrometers;

a third layer proximate the second side of said first layer, said third layer comprising a nonwoven web of continuous fibers having an average fiber diameter greater than about 10 micrometers; and

wherein said layers are bonded together to form a multilayer laminate having a hydrohead of at least 50 mbars, a Frazier air permeability in excess of 70 cubic feet/minute/square foot and a cup crush energy less than 2150 g-mm.

2. The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein said first layer comprises a nonwoven web of autogenously bonded fibers.

3. The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein said first layer comprises a nonwoven web of meltblown fibers.

4. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 3 wherein said second layer comprises a nonwoven web of spunbond fibers.

5. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 4 wherein said second layer comprises a nonwoven web of spunbond fibers.

6. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 5 wherein said second and third layers comprise bicomponent spunbond fiber webs.

7. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 6 wherein at least one component in each of said first, second and third layers comprises a propylene polymer and further wherein said multilayer laminate has a cup crush energy less than 2050 g-mm.

8. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 6 wherein at least one component in each of said first, second and third layers comprises an ethylene polymer and further wherein said multilayer laminate has a cup crush energy less than 2050 g-mm.

9. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 5 wherein said laminate has a Frazier air permeability in excess of 100 cubic feet/minute/square foot.

10. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 5 wherein the first polymeric component of said multicomponent meltblown fiber web comprises a propylene polymer having a crystallinity above 70 J/g and further wherein the second polymeric component of said meltblown fiber web comprises an amorphous polyalphaolefin having a crystallinity below about 65 J/g.

11. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 5 wherein said second and third spunbond layers are extensible and further wherein the first polymeric component of said multicomponent meltblown fiber web comprises an elastic polyolefin and wherein said second component of the multicomponent meltblown fiber web comprises an elastic polymer.

12. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 11 wherein the second component of the multicomponent meltblown fiber web comprises an elastic polyolefin.

13. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 11 wherein the second component of the multicomponent meltblown fiber web comprises a blend of a polyolefin and a non-olefin thermoplastic elastomer.

14. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 11 wherein the second component of the multicomponent meltblown fiber web comprises an elastic non-olefin thermoplastic elastomer.

15. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 11 wherein the second component of the multicomponent meltblown fiber web comprises a block copolymer having a styrenic moiety end block and an elastomeric mid-block.

16. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 5 further comprising a fourth layer comprising a nonwoven web of monocomponent polypropylene meltblown fibers and further wherein said fourth layer is located between said second and third layers and adjacent said first layer.

17. The nonwoven web laminate of claim 16 wherein the first polymeric component comprises a crystalline propylene polymer and wherein the second polymeric component comprises an amorphous propylene polymer.

18. A nonwoven web comprising:  
a randomly interlaid web of extruded multicomponent meltblown fibers, said multicomponent fibers having an average fiber diameter less than about 7 micrometers and comprising a first olefin polymer component and a second amorphous olefin polymer component.

19. The nonwoven web of claim 18 wherein the first polymeric component comprises a crystalline propylene polymer and wherein the second polymeric component comprises an amorphous propylene polymer.

20. The nonwoven web of claim 18 wherein the first polymeric component comprises a propylene polymer having a crystallinity above 70 J/g and further wherein the second polymeric component comprises an amorphous polyalphaolefin having a crystallinity below about 65 J/g.

21. The nonwoven web of claim 20 wherein the second polymeric component comprises a propylene homopolymer.

22. The nonwoven web of claim 18 wherein said first component comprises polyethylene and wherein said second component comprises an amorphous polyalphaolefin having a crystallinity below about 65 J/g.

23. The nonwoven web of claim 18 wherein said nonwoven web has a hydrohead in excess of 50 mbar and a Frazier air permeability in excess of 100 cubic feet/ minute/square foot.